The price of APM gas for consumers in the North-East region has been revised to Rs. 1920/MCM effective 1.7.2005.

The price of gas for consumers other than those stated above is market related.

**Recognition of Workers' Union**

2309. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is **a** fact that majority of the workers and employees working in Indian Oil Corporation (Assam Oil Division) have demanded recognition of union through secret ballot;

(b) whether his Ministry has received individually signed mass petitions from workers in this respect; and

(c) if so, the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MAN I SHANKAR AIYAR) (a) A majority of the workers (1536 out of 2053) of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (Assam Oil Division) are members of the Assam Oil Company (AOC) Labour Union, which is a recognised union. However, the Mineral Oil Workers Union (MOWU), another Trade Union, which is mainly a contractors' workmen union, have claimed to be having membership of regular workmen of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (Assam Oil Division) MOWU has demanded verification of membership through secret ballot.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise, in view of (b) above.

**Allocation of kerosene to Chhattisgarh**

†2310. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the basis on which allotment of Kerosene oil of Public Distribution System is made to State;

(b) whether Kerosene oil is being allotted to the States on prescribed norms if not, the reasons therefor;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is a fact that less Kerosene oil is being allotted to Chhattisgarh as compared to other States;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) when the State of Chhattisgarh had demanded to increase the Kerosene allotment and the action taken by Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) (a) to (e) In accordance with the policy adopted by the Government of India in 2000, the Kerosene (SKO) allocation for distribution under the Public Distribution system (PDS) to various States/Union Territories, including Chhattisgarh, was reduced every year beginning 2001-02 and till 2004-05, taking into account the ' number of LPG connections released in each State/Union Territory. The State Government of Chhattisgarh have made a request for the allocation of PDS SKO on the basis of uniform per capita availability in air States.

In view of the requests received from various State Governments for increasing the allocation, the Government of India have commissioned the first-ever detailed study of Kerosene demand in the country, through the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in December 2004. The final report of NCAER is expected by September, 2005.

Pending the report of NCAER, and Government taking a view thereupon, allocations have been maintained for the year 2005-06 at the level of 2004-05, including additional allocations made during the year to meet emergency/urgent demands for PDS Kerosene in States/Union Territories. The decision about rationalizing the allocation of PDS kerosene among States/Union Territories will be taken after examining the NCAER report.

**Government's control over allotment of dealership**

†2311. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that oil marketing companies select dealers and distributorship under their guidance;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.